



San José Police Department

Statement of

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Office of the Chief of Police
On behalf of Chief Robert L. Davis
San Jose Police Department

before the

House Government Reform Committee
Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations

concerning

Homeland Security: Surveillance and Monitoring of Explosive Storage Facilities

October 31, 2005

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

Good morning, my name is Gary Kirby, a Lieutenant with the San Jose Police Department. I am a full time sworn officer assigned as the Commander of the Research and Development Unit, Office of the Chief of Police.

The San Jose Police Department has twelve active Bomb Technicians and investigators. Since 1992, the Department has maintained an explosive storage magazine for high and low grade explosives on-site at our six-acre Bomb Range Training Facility (BRTF). This BRTF is the only explosive storage magazine available for use to other County, State and Federal law enforcement agencies in Santa Clara County, which meets and exceeds current ATF explosive storage

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regulations, as set forth in 18 USC. Chapter 40, subpart K - Storage, section 55.204. In addition to the ATF storage regulations, this facility has daily inspections of the explosive storage magazine and is completely surrounded with locked cyclone fencing.

Explosives are stored at the facility for a variety of uses, to include evidence storage of explosives associated to a criminal investigation, related Bomb Technician duties requiring the use of explosives, rendering safe of explosive devices, ongoing training and special instructional courses provided in conjunction with the FBI and ATF, as well as providing the safe storage of explosives used exclusively for training SJPd bomb detection dogs assigned to the San Jose Airport as part of the Transportation Safety Agency (TSA) security requirements.

The BRTF is located in a heavily industrialized section of the City of San Jose, a considerable distance away from residential populations and frequent police patrol checks during non-use hours.

In the past, the San Jose Police Department was confident with the existing security measures in place for the protection of explosive materials and safety measures for personnel responding to alarm calls on breaches in security at the BRTF. In light of the current threat environment associated to potential terrorist activity, our position and level of comfort on adequate security measures has changed. We, along with other associations such as the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators, believe we should elevate our ability to secure and monitor activity in and around the BRTF.

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The course of corrective action determined by our Department to provide the desired security enhancements is to install a more sophisticated security system that would detect intrusive movement anywhere on the BRTF prior to any intrusion targeting the explosive storage magazine. The addition of remote camera viewing through secured computer web access directly to the San Jose Police Communications dispatch operators is an additional enhancement recommendation. This will not only allow for remote camera viewing during security breaches, but also adds increased safety during training and routine explosives handling. Most breaches in security require a post investigation that centers around the questions of was anything taken, who took the explosives, and how do we initiate a timely investigation with suspect description(s) and routes of departure. The proposed security enhancements would assist in this post-investigative process, and could possibly act as a deterrent to a breach in security by their mere presence.

To secure funding for this project, estimated at a cost of approximately \$20,000.00 dollars, the San Jose Police Department submitted a request for funding from the FY-05 U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office for Domestic Preparedness, through the California State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). The request was submitted to the Santa Clara County State Homeland Security Approval Authority for consideration. The Approval Authority took the request under submission and presented it along with other law enforcement agency requests to be prioritized in order of importance, as determined by the Santa Clara County Association of Police and Fire Chiefs. Through their prioritization process, the funding to purchase the increased security and monitoring equipment was not granted on the first round of approval. To the credit of the Santa Clara County Approval Authority, they recognized the importance of this equipment and committed to earmarking any identified project savings during this funding

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period to purchase the requested equipment. In the interim, a similar request for funding has been submitted to the Department of Homeland Security, Buffer Zone Protection Plan (BZPP). Now, there is a greater likelihood that this security enhancement will be made available through BZPP funding, rather than identified SHSP project savings.

Law enforcement agencies nationwide continue to work together in the fight against terrorism. We know that the use of explosives is key in the efforts of terrorist activities. I believe the efforts of this Subcommittee will assist us in winning this war, through collective sharing and support of security enhancements that will work towards guarding the Nation's storage of explosives.

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify today and I am available to answer any questions you may have.

